UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/618/Add.1
14 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (a)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part II)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96, sub-items (a) and (b) (see A/50/618, para. 3). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 23rd, 36th, 37th, 40th, 41st and 43rd meetings, on 3, 16, 17 and 30 November and on 5 and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.23, 36, 37, 40, 41 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.8 and A/C.2/50/L.45

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 3 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/50/L.8), which read:

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/618 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 49/117 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and 49/119 on the International Day for Biological Diversity of 19 December 1994,

"Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1/

"Recalling also Agenda 21, 2/ particularly its chapter 15, on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

"Recalling further the recommendations of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity, 3/

"Deeply concerned by the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reiterating the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, and the sustainable use of its components, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

"1. Welcomes the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nassau, the Bahamas, from 28 November to 9 December 1994, as reflected in the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, 4/ submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 49/117;

"2. Takes note of the results of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in Paris, from 4 to 8 September 1995, including its medium-term programme of work for 1996-1997 as well as its contribution to the open-ended ad hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

1/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (i).

4/ A/50/218.

"3. Calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

"4. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 6 to 17 November 1995."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 30 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/50/L.45), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.8.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.45, without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution I).

5. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.45, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.22 and A/C.2/50/L.54

6. At the 36th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/50/L.22), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and its other relevant resolutions and decisions, and the recommendations made in Agenda 21, 5/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"Recalling also its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

"Recalling further its resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994, in which it urged the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare for the

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5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex II.

first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the Convention,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/234 6/ and on possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional annexes, and having also considered Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 7/1 7/ on dates and venue of the sessions of the Committee during the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"Expressing its concern about the present level of the Special Voluntary Fund for the participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries,

"Noting also that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has established two working groups in order to be able to discharge its responsibilities in the preparation of the first session of the Conference of Parties,

"Expressing its concern about the present level of the Trust Fund, which requires adequate funding to enable the interim secretariat to respond to the request for support in carrying out activities in implementation of urgent action in Africa as well as actions in other affected developing regions,

"Considering that the Convention is one of the main steps in the implementation and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"1. Welcomes the signing of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa by a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization and the ratification of the Convention by a growing number of States, and urges States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

"2. Invites all States, in addition to the information they have already provided, to continue to communicate to the interim secretariat of the Convention information on actions undertaken or envisaged for the implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa; 8/

6/ A/50/515.

7/ A/50/74/Add.1, annex, appendix II.

8/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III.

"3. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall continue to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the Convention;

"4. Decides, for this purpose, to convene two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1996, each of up to two weeks' duration, the eighth session to be held at Geneva from 5 to 16 February and the ninth session in New York from 3 to 13 September;

"5. Decides also to convene a further two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1997, each of up to two weeks' duration, the tenth session to be held in New York from 6 to 17 January and the eleventh session in April, the exact dates and venue of which to be determined at a later stage;

"6. Recommends that, upon the entry into force of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention be convened in the second and third weeks of June 1997 or, alternatively, the second and third weeks of August 1997, the exact dates and venue of which to be determined at a later stage;

"7. Requests all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations, appropriate scientific and business communities, trade unions, relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups to take action for the prompt implementation of the Convention and its relevant regional annexes upon its entry into force and in this regard to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and the Latin American and Caribbean regions;

"8. Urges all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations and all other relevant actors to take actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa;

"9. Decides that the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose and administered by the head of the interim secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of using the Fund, as appropriate, to support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Committee and of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

"10. Urges States, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to reinforce the capacity of the interim secretariat of the Convention through substantial contributions to the Trust Fund;

"11. Renews its appeals to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to make early contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund in order to ensure an enhanced effective participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries;

"12. Welcomes the arrangements concluded between the interim secretariat of the Convention and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Meteorological Organization, whereby appropriate actions are to be taken for active collaboration and support of activities at the national and regional levels in affected developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, and invites the interim secretariat to conclude similar arrangements with other relevant organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

"13. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit progress reports on the Committee's work to the General Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies of the United Nations;

"14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions;

"15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution relative to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, under the item entitled 'Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development'."

7. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/50/L.54), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.22.

8. At the same meeting, a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.54 was read out by the Secretary of the Committee (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.54, without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution II).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Benin and Mauritania (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

11. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23 and A/C.2/50/L.78

12. At the 37th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" (A/C.2/50/L.23), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 9/

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing proposals on the format, scope and organizational aspects of such a special session, 10/

"1. Decides to convene the special session envisaged in resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week during the month of June 1997 at the highest possible level of participation;

"2. Encourages participants at the high-level meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held during its fourth session, in 1996, to address, inter alia, matters related to the special session of the General Assembly decided on above;

"3. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to convene its Ad Hoc Inter-Sessional Working Group meeting, in February 1997, as an open-ended meeting, so as to assist the Commission on Sustainable Development in undertaking the review for the special session;

"4. Welcomes the decision of the Commission to devote its fifth session, in 1997, to preparations for the special session, and decides that that session of the Commission will be open-ended, with all States participating on an equal footing;

9/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

10/ A/50/453.

"5. Welcomes the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Council emphasized the need for the Programme, in accordance with its mandate in the implementation of Agenda 21, to continue to provide effective support to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in which the Council decided to hold its nineteenth session early in 1997 with a view to making a contribution to the special session;

"6. Invites Governments as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations to consider undertaking reviews of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels with a view to contributing to the preparations for the special session;

"7. Also invites all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the specialized agencies and other multilateral organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the special session, and requests the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, in close coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development, to ensure an effective and coordinated system-wide response to the preparation of the special session;

"8. Further invites the conferences of parties or other regulatory bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as well as the regulatory bodies of other relevant instruments, as appropriate, and the Global Environment Facility, to provide their inputs to the special session;

"9. Recognizes the important role played by the non-governmental organizations at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and recognizes the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session, in accordance with the practice of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

"10. Decides to establish a voluntary fund to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the special session and its preparatory process, and invites Governments to contribute to the fund;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, a comprehensive report containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

in the implementation of Agenda 21, 11/ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 11/ and related conference outcomes, as well as recommendations for future actions and priorities, including those concerning institutional matters, in particular the role of the Commission, and requests that the report include:

"(a) Concise reports containing an assessment of the progress achieved in specific sectoral and cross-sectoral areas;

"(b) Country profiles providing a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the national level, compiled on the basis of national information received and in close cooperation with the Governments concerned;

"12. Decides to include a sub-item entitled 'Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21' in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a progress report on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session."

13. A statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly was contained in document A/C.2/50/L.55.

14. At the 43rd meeting, on 12 December the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" (A/C.2/50/L.78), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23.

15. A statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was contained in document A/C.2/50/L.82.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78, without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution III).

17. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Canada (see A/C.2/50/SR.43).

18. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

11/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ..., resolution 1, annex I.

D. Draft decision

19. At the 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the notes by the Secretary-General on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, submitted under agenda item 96 (a) (see para. 21).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

20. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 49/117 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and 49/119 on the International Day for Biological Diversity of 19 December 1994,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity, 12/

Recalling also Agenda 21, 13/ particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

Recalling further the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity, 14/

Deeply concerned by the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reiterating the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, and the sustainable use of its components, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

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12/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

13/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

14/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (i).

1. Welcomes the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nassau, the Bahamas, from 28 November to 9 December 1994, as reflected in the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, 15/ submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 49/117;

2. Takes note that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has decided to accept the offer of the Government of Canada to host the secretariat of the Convention, and expresses its appreciation for the support offered by the Canadian authorities to ensure the effective functioning of the secretariat;

3. Takes note of the results of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 4 to 8 September 1995, including its medium-term programme of work for 1996-1997 and its contribution to the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

4. Calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held at Jakarta, Indonesia, from 6 to 17 November 1995, and also invites the Secretary to make the reports of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention available to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989 and 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and its other relevant resolutions and decisions, and the recommendations made in Agenda 21, 16/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

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15/ A/50/218.

16/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Recalling also its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it decided to establish the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling further its resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994, in which it decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should continue to function in order, inter alia, to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 17/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/234 18/ and on possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional implementation annexes, 19/ and having also considered Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 7/1 20/ on dates and venue of the sessions of the Committee during the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its concern about the present level of the Special Voluntary Fund for participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries,

Noting that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has established two working groups in order to be able to discharge its responsibilities in the preparation for the first session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its concern about the present level of the Trust Fund, established pursuant to its resolution 47/188, to support the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat,

Considering that the Convention is one of the main steps in the implementation and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

1. Welcomes the signing of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 17/ by a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization and the ratification of the

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17/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

18/ A/50/515.

19/ A/50/347.

20/ See A/50/74/Add.1, annex, appendix II.

Convention by a growing number of States, and urges States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

2. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, shall continue to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as specified in the Convention;

3. Also decides, for this purpose, to convene two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1996, each of up to two weeks' duration, the eighth session to be held at Geneva from 5 to 16 February and the ninth session in New York from 3 to 13 September;

4. Further decides to convene the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, which is to be held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997 and, pending the entry into force of the Convention, to convene, as necessary, a further session of the Committee in 1997, of up to two weeks' duration, the exact dates and venue of which shall be determined at a later stage;

5. Recommends that, upon the entry into force of the Convention, a session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention be convened in the second and third weeks of June 1997 or, alternatively, in the second and third weeks of August 1997, the exact dates and venue of the session to be determined at a later stage;

6. Requests all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations, appropriate scientific and business communities, trade unions, relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups to take action for the prompt implementation of the Convention and its relevant regional implementation annexes 21/ upon its entry into force and in this regard to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regions;

7. Urges all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations and all other relevant actors to undertake actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa, 22/ as well as to promote actions for other affected developing countries and regions, and invites all States to continue to communicate to the interim secretariat of the Convention, in addition to the information they have already provided, information on actions undertaken and/or envisaged for the implementation of the provisions of resolution 5/1;

21/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II, annexes I-IV.

22/ See A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III, sect. A.

8. Decides that the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose and administered by the head of the interim secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of using the Fund, as appropriate, to support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

9. Urges States, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to reinforce the capacity of the interim secretariat of the Convention through substantial contributions to the Trust Fund;

10. Renews its appeals to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to make early contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund in order to ensure an enhanced effective participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and/or drought, in particular the least developed countries;

11. Notes the arrangements and contributions made by the Secretary-General and relevant organizations active in the fields of desertification, drought and development, including the United Nations Development Programme/Office to Combat Desertification and Drought, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank, as regards the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat in the conduct of their mandate, and invites them to intensify and expand such support and collaboration in the future, as appropriate;

12. Also notes the arrangements concluded between the interim secretariat of the Convention and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Meteorological Organization, whereby appropriate actions are taken for an active collaboration and support of activities at the national and regional levels in affected developing countries, in particular those in Africa, and the least developed countries;

13. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit progress reports on the work of the Committee to the General Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies of the United Nations;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution relative to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, under the item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 23/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing proposals on the format, scope and organizational aspects of such a special session, 24/

1. Decides to convene the special session envisaged in resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week during the month of June 1997 at the highest possible level of participation;

2. Encourages participants at the high-level meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held during its fourth session, in 1996, to address, inter alia, matters related to the special session of the General Assembly decided on above;

3. Invites the Commission to devote its Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group meeting, to be held in February 1997, to assisting the Commission in undertaking the review for the special session;

4. Welcomes the decision of the Commission to devote its fifth session, in 1997, to preparations for the special session, and decides that that session of the Commission will be open-ended in its deliberations, allowing for the full participation of all States;

23/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

24/ A/50/453.

5. Invites the Commission to make available to the Assembly at the special session all relevant reports prepared under the aegis of the Commission, along with the recommendations of the Commission thereon;

6. Welcomes the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Council emphasized the need for the Programme, in accordance with its mandate in the implementation of Agenda 21, to continue to provide effective support to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in which the Council decided to hold its nineteenth session early in 1997 with a view to making a contribution to the special session;

7. Invites Governments as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations to consider undertaking reviews of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels with a view to contributing to the preparations for the special session;

8. Welcomes the preparation of hemispheric, regional and subregional conferences on sustainable development, and in that context invites the Governments concerned to contribute to the special session the outcomes of such conferences;

9. Also invites all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the specialized agencies and other multilateral organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the special session, and requests the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, in close coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development, to ensure an effective and coordinated system-wide response to the preparation of the special session;

10. Further invites the conferences of parties or other regulatory bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as well as the regulatory bodies of other relevant instruments, as appropriate, and the Global Environment Facility, to provide their inputs to the special session;

11. Recognizes the important role played by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and recognizes the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session;

12. Invites Governments to assist the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the special session and its preparatory process, and in that regard invites them to make appropriate contributions to the Trust Fund to Support the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, a comprehensive report containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, 23/ and in the implementation of related outcomes, as well as recommendations for future actions and priorities, and requests that the report include:

(a) Concise reports containing an assessment of the progress achieved in specific sectoral and cross-sectoral areas;

(b) Country profiles providing a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the national level, compiled on the basis of national information received and in close cooperation with the Governments concerned;

(c) Major and emerging trends and issues within the framework of Agenda 21 and related outcomes of the Conference in the area of sustainable development, including the environmental impact of activities that are gravely hazardous to the environment, taking into account the views of States;

(d) Recommendations on the future role of the Commission in the follow-up to the outcome of the Conference and related outcomes, building on experience gained since 1992;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to mount a public information programme to raise global awareness of both the special session to review the implementation of Agenda 21 and the work undertaken by the United Nations in the follow-up to the Conference;

15. Decides that the preparations for the special session and the special session itself shall be kept within the agreed appropriation level for the 1996-1997 biennium;

16. Decides to include a sub-item entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a progress report on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session.

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21. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Notes by the Secretary-General on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly takes note of the notes by the Secretary-General on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. 25/

25/ A/50/74 and Add.1.